



Department of Justice

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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The Department of Justice today filed a civil antitrust suit charging the Association of Ship Brokers and Agents (U.S.A.), Inc., and the Worldscale Association (NYC), Inc., with conspiring to fix the fees charged for brokering the spot market chartering of oil tankers to and from the United States and its territories.

Attorney General Benjamin R. Civiletti said that the suit, alleging a violation of Section 1 of the Sherman Antitrust Act, was filed in the U.S. District Court in New York City.

Sanford M. Litvack, Assistant Attorney General in charge of the Antitrust Division, said the complaint charges that, beginning as early as 1967, and continuing to the present, the defendants engaged in a combination and conspiracy to fix brokerage commissions in the oil tanker chartering business.

According to the complaint, tanker owners pay in excess of \$12 million each year to brokers for negotiating spot market oil tanker charters.

The complaint seeks injunctive relief.

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